



The Old Ironsides Report



16 Sep 2003

Volume I Issue 57

1st Armored Division engineers work on Baghdad's sewage system

**Story and photo by Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd MPAD**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from A Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, have taken to the streets to fix a long-neglected, faulty city sewage system.

In the Baghdad neighborhood of Berea, the engineers have been joining forces with local officials, compiling information and digging up sewer lines in preparation for overhauls that will follow in the coming months.

The sewage water standing in the streets and alleys of the neighborhood is an indication of the scale of the problem faces the U.S. Army and the citizens of Baghdad. Local residents even spoke about an increase in cases of hepatitis in the children in the area, attributed to the presence of sewage in the streets.

"We are currently working on a major project to restore the sewage system in Berea," said Capt. Eric R. Swenson, commander of A Company. "This part of the city is very low-lying with a high water table, so we have our work cut out for us."

Even though the engineers are playing a major role in the reconstruction, the U.S. Army is focused on support.

"The Army's role is one of oversight," said Swenson. "Our stance is always to help the Iraqis help themselves. We help set and manage priorities."

A large portion of the existing sewage system needs to be replaced, a project the engineers will work on alongside the citizens of the community.

"Part of the problem is that the pipes are undersized," said Swenson. "This part of the city has grown quicker than its sewage infrastructure can handle. We are now trying to jet the pipes and re-establish flow."

Immediate plans include building a pump station that will help maintain sewage flow in the area, Swenson said.

"This mission lets leaders come down and get familiar with how the sewage system works," he said.

Although the engineers have taken on a huge task, Swenson said that he and his soldiers are able to stay motivated because the people of Baghdad are depending on them for their health and well-being.

"There are lots of great people and children out here, and we see them walking through these sewage-covered streets," said Swenson. "They inspire us to get the job done more quickly."



Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 70th Engineer Battalion follow the standing water in the streets of a Baghdad neighborhood, known as Berea, that has been flooded with sewage water for weeks. U.S. Army engineers are taking steps to improve Baghdad's sewage problems and restore drainage to the avenues.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

**Prior to Running or Engaging in any Sport
Make Sure You:**

- Warm-up and stretch.
- Recon running route, and playing field (mark obstacles).
- Watch for holes, drop offs, and uneven terrain.
- Wear proper clothing and reflective belt or vest.

Get Medical Treatment for Injuries

NEWS

Carter Prods Bush on Mideast Peace Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration must push harder - and be evenhanded - to revive sagging peace hopes in the Middle East, former President Carter said Monday. In an Associated Press interview 25 years after the Camp David accords, Carter said Israel and the Palestinians had not only abandoned the U.S.-backed road map for peace but had violated it - Israel by threatening the "removal" of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. He suggested the Bush administration was tilted toward Israel.

NATO Ponders Expanding Afghan Mission

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - European nations are considering a U.S. and German request for the United Nations peacekeeping force in Afghanistan to spread outside the capital, Kabul, but have not discussed sending more troops, officials said Monday. NATO currently provides 5,500 troops in Kabul under a U.N. mandate to maintain order in the capital and support the Afghan authorities. About 11,500 foreign troops are also in Afghanistan in the U.S. force fighting the remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida.

East Coast Braces for Hurricane Isabel

TOPSAIL BEACH, N.C. (AP) - Residents up and down the East Coast boarded up windows with plywood, hauled their boats inland and stocked up on generators, batteries and flashlights Monday as a fearsome Hurricane Isabel churned toward land with winds howling at 140 mph. Forecasters said Isabel could hit anywhere from North Carolina to New Jersey late Thursday or early Friday with sustained wind of up to 130 mph.

Federal Court Postpones California Recall

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A federal appeals court postponed the Oct. 7 recall election Monday in a decision that threw an already chaotic campaign into utter turmoil. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did not set a new date, but ruled that the election cannot proceed as scheduled because some votes would be cast using outmoded punch-card ballot machines. The decision applies to all the recall questions on the ballot, as well as two propositions.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: *A Power Greater Than Ourselves*

Knowing there is a Power greater than ourselves is like knowing the sun is in the sky. There are days when the sun shines with a brilliance that lights up everything around us--tree branches, snowflakes, the faces of our friends. When a seed is planted, it is the sun's warmth that invites it out of the ground to grow into a fruit or flower. The sun is the center the earth rotates around. The sun gives warmth and light to the earth, sometimes in ways we don't always notice. There are days we do not see the sun--it is obscured by thick clouds. Yet even on these days, we know the sun's rays still reach the earth and nourish her. God nourishes and warms our lives the same way the sun does the earth. Some days we easily see the presence of such a power in our lives, and other days we cannot see past the clouds. But God gives our lives a light-filled center and nourishes us even on quiet cloudy days.

SPORTS

Mosley offers De La Hoya third helping of Sugar

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Shane Mosley took time off from celebrating his win over Oscar De La Hoya on Monday to offer some advice about dealing with a loss. After that, he offered De La Hoya another fight. "If he wants to do it again, it's all right with me," Mosley said. "As long as the money is right, that is." Refusing to let De La Hoya's talk of an investigation into the judging of the fight tarnish his win, Mosley said De La Hoya needs to accept his loss and move on. "I think he's a little emotional right now," Mosley said. "He needs to take some time to cool off and understand what's done is done."

NFL



BEARS (0-2) **13**



VIKINGS (2-0) **24**

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Information regarding discipline imposed by the CG and courts-martial tried within 1AD will be published periodically in the Admin FRAGO and in the 1AD Newsletter. No action is required. POC is the SJA.

The Commanding General, 1AD, imposed the following discipline during the period of 1-8 September:

Article 15 for violations of Article 112a (use, possession and distribution of controlled substances) and Article 134 (fraternization), imposed on a 2LT.

Article 15 for violations of Article 109 (destruction of property), Article 92 (dereliction of duty), and Article 134 (false swearing), imposed on a 1LT.

General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for dereliction of duty and inappropriate conduct, imposed on a CPT.

In addition, the following courts-martial were concluded:

Summary Court Martial, for a violation of Article 138 (assault by pointing a locked and loaded weapon at a fellow soldier), imposed on a SPC. The soldier was convicted and sentenced.

Summary Court Martial, for violations of Article 118 (dereliction of duty) and Article 134 (altering a public record to create false orders). The soldier was convicted and sentenced.

On This Day In History: *September 16th, 1940*

On September 16, 1940 the Burke-Wadsworth Act is passed by Congress, by wide margins in both houses, and the first peacetime draft in the history of the United States is imposed. Selective Service was born. The registration of men between the ages of 21 and 36 began exactly one month later, as Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, who had been a key player in moving the Roosevelt administration away from a foreign policy of strict neutrality, began drawing draft numbers out of a glass bowl. The numbers were handed to the president, who read them aloud for public announcement. There were some 20 million eligible young men—50 percent were rejected the very first year. In November 1942, with the United States now a participant in the war, and not merely a neutral bystander, the draft ages expanded; men 18 to 37 were now eligible. "Conscientious objector" status was granted to those who could demonstrate "sincerity of belief in religious teachings combined with a profound moral aversion to war." Quakers made up most of the COs, but 75 percent of those Quakers who were drafted fought. By war's end, approximately 34 million men had registered, and 10 million served with the military.

source: historychannel.com